

Quarterly Population Report

Third Quarter 2017

Alberta sees first net interprovincial inflows in two years¹

As Alberta's economy continues to recover, fewer Alberta residents are choosing to move to other provinces. After two years of net outflows, interprovincial migration was positive for the first time this quarter. The net flow of non-permanent residents (NPRs) also turned positive for the first time in a year. As a result of these factors as well as continued strong immigration and natural increase, Alberta saw its highest third quarter growth since 2014.

As of October 1st, 2017, Alberta had an estimated population of 4,306,039, an addition of 19,905 people since July 1st (Figure 1). Alberta grew by 0.46% this quarter, close to the national average. Net international migration was the largest contributor, accounting for 0.24% of growth, while natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for 0.21%. While net interprovincial migration only contributed 0.02% of population growth, its shift to positive helped to bolster Alberta's growth.

On a year-over-year basis, Alberta's growth rate (1.30%²), was almost the same as the national figure (1.29%), however it was smaller than the same quarter

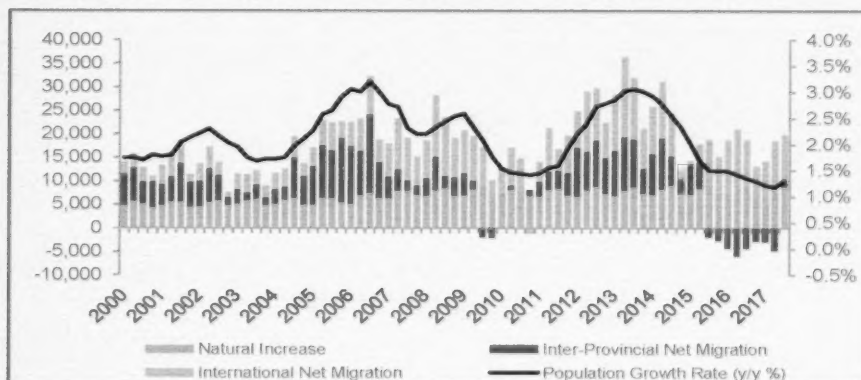
1 All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007-2017 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.

2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (October 1, 2016 to October 1, 2017)

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
01-Oct	Canada	Alberta	01-Oct	Canada	Alberta
2012	34,881,369	3,910,544	2012	1.20%	2.72%
2013	35,289,109	4,029,995	2013	1.17%	3.05%
2014	35,664,652	4,132,646	2014	1.06%	2.55%
2015	35,961,311	4,194,449	2015	0.83%	1.50%
2016	36,415,721	4,250,816	2016	1.26%	1.34%
2017	36,885,049	4,306,039	2017	1.29%	1.30%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 3rd Quarter



last year (Table 1). Despite the uptick in the third quarter growth, the three preceding quarters were especially weak, leading to a continuation of the trend of declining year-over-year growth since 2013. This was the lowest third quarter year-over-year growth that Alberta has seen since 1994, while for Canada, it was the highest since 1990.

From October 2016 to October 2017, Alberta tied with British Columbia for the fourth highest growth among the provinces (Table 2). P.E.I. had the fastest annual growth (1.79%), followed by Ontario (1.60%) and Manitoba (1.50%). Newfoundland was the only province to see negative year-over-year growth this quarter (-0.41%).

Migration

Alberta gained a total of 11,106 people through all forms of migration in the third quarter (Table 4). This was the highest quarterly net

Table 2: Population of Provinces/Territories as of Oct. 1, 2017 and Growth Rates since Oct. 1, 2016

	Population	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	36,885,049	1.29%
NL	528,430	-0.41%
PEI	152,784	1.79%
NS	957,600	0.66%
NB	760,868	0.30%
QC	8,425,996	0.98%
ON	14,279,196	1.60%
MB	1,343,371	1.50%
SK	1,168,057	1.25%
AB	4,306,039	1.30%
BC	4,841,078	1.30%
YT	38,669	1.31%
NT	44,718	0.70%
NU	38,243	2.55%

migration in three years, and over double that of the same quarter last year (5,419). While international migration has been a consistent contributor to Alberta's population growth, the change in net interprovincial migration, which was about 5,000 larger than during the same quarter last year, was primarily responsible for boosting migration this quarter.

Interprovincial migration

After eight quarters of net interprovincial outflows ranging from around -2,000 to -6,000, Alberta finally saw net inflows in the third quarter of 2017, adding 743 people, the third highest among the provinces (Table 3). Ontario was the most popular destination, with 7,807 net interprovincial migrants, while Manitoba had the largest net outflows (-2,693). For the first time in ten quarters, Alberta had more net interprovincial migrants than British Columbia. On a year-over-year basis, Alberta lost a net of 9,967 migrants to other provinces, 43.2% fewer than the same quarter last year. Alberta's largest net interprovincial outflows were to Ontario (-1,365).

In response to the economic downturn, Alberta experienced large net outflows to British Columbia, losing thousands of net interprovincial migrants per quarter. With an improving economic outlook, the strength of this trend is moderating. Compared to the same quarter last year, fewer Alberta residents are moving to B.C. (6,376 vs. 8,186), and more B.C. residents are moving to Alberta (6,272 vs. 5,581). Alberta also saw increased net inflows from the other prairie provinces, gaining 1,074 from Saskatchewan and 701 from Manitoba (Map 1).

Net International Migration

Net international migration remained the most important contributor to Alberta's population growth this quarter, adding 10,362 people. This was the highest third quarter addition since 2013. Immigration was lower compared to previous years but this was offset by a net inflow of NPRs.

Immigration to Alberta continued to soften this quarter, adding 8,440 people, about 1,600 less than the same quarter last year and the lowest third quarter level since 2009. Canada welcomed about 70,000 immigrants in the third quarter, of which, 12.0% landed in Alberta—the fourth largest share among the provinces. Most of Canada's new immigrants landed in Ontario (40.0%), followed by Quebec (19.8%) and B.C. (12.4%).

Alberta made large gains in NPRs this quarter, adding a net of 3,335. This is the largest net inflow of NPRs since 2013, and a reversal of the negative trend seen in the past few years. Of the provinces, Alberta ranked fourth in net NPRs, behind Ontario (39,862), British Columbia (14,702) and Quebec (14,601). There were just over 79,000 NPRs in Alberta as of October 1st, 2017, which amounts to 8.2% of all NPRs in Canada, a proportion which has been steadily declining over the last three years. In contrast, Ontario has seen a steady increase in its share of Canada's NPRs, since 2014.

Natural increase

As the province with the lowest average and median ages, it is only natural that natural increase plays a prominent role in Alberta's population growth. In the third quarter of 2017, 8,799 people were added through natural increase—the result of 15,013 births and 6,214 deaths. Alberta's natural growth rate (0.21%) was the highest among the provinces and almost doubled the national figure of 0.11%.

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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta July 1 to September 30, 2017

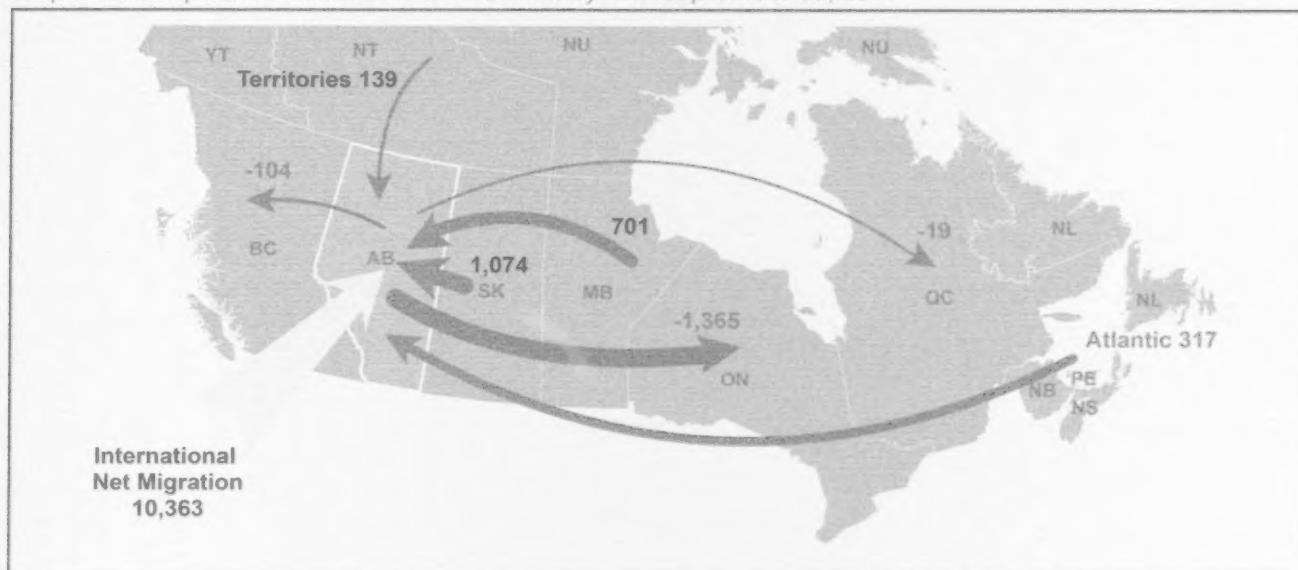


Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants July 1 to September 30, 2017

	Destination												
	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NW	NU
Origin	NL	0	72	353	177	167	825	94	17	795	169	0	0
	PE	45	0	116	75	106	526	0	16	94	155	0	5
	NS	222	137	0	538	162	1,659	78	13	698	370	0	36
	NB	65	93	627	0	700	1,201	48	60	529	209	0	16
	QC	46	96	332	481	0	6,515	143	104	870	843	10	21
	ON	461	233	1,788	801	3,618	0	870	735	4,044	3,617	13	107
	MB	48	0	96	80	297	2,041	0	391	1,360	1,334	0	42
	SK	20	30	103	39	137	1,622	437	0	2,722	1,061	39	27
	AB	435	64	762	538	889	5,409	659	1,648	0	6,376	103	119
	BC	104	62	488	310	835	4,221	610	517	6,272	0	127	144
	YT	0	0	13	12	16	55	0	19	97	52	0	18
	NW	5	0	52	4	60	84	0	24	242	70	9	0
	NU	21	0	18	0	12	69	23	0	52	16	0	30
	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NW	NU
IN	1,472	787	4,748	3,055	6,999	24,227	2,962	3,544	17,775	14,272	301	565	257
OUT	2,669	1,138	3,921	3,548	9,478	16,420	5,706	6,237	17,032	13,729	282	563	241
NET	-1,197	-351	827	-493	-2,479	7,807	-2,744	-2,693	743	543	19	2	16
Q3 2017	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NW	NU
Outflow to AB	795	94	698	529	870	4,044	1,360	2,722	0	6,272	97	242	52
Inflow from AB	435	64	762	538	889	5,409	659	1,648	0	6,376	103	119	30
Net Flow to AB	360	30	-64	-9	-19	-1,365	701	1,074	0	-104	-6	123	22

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration ¹			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total ⁴
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents ²	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net ^{2,3}	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2014-2015													
Jul-Sep	22,189	15,803	6,386	10,283	14	2,973	665	2,242	8,901	15,287	14,587	5,644	24,230
Oct-Dec	14,650	11,574	3,076	9,150	-5,614	1,777	529	838	2,068	5,144	13,598	6,164	12,578
Jan-Mar	22,849	16,367	6,482	8,203	-5,855	1,767	545	768	804	7,286	13,509	6,391	14,404
Apr-Jun	29,786	24,136	5,650	11,970	-7,127	1,979	546	1,603	3,921	9,571	14,257	5,929	17,899
Total	89,474	67,880	21,594	39,606	-18,582	8,496	2,285	5,451	15,694	37,288	55,951	24,128	69,111
2015-2016													
Jul-Sep	19,080	21,077	-1,997	14,172	-2,836	2,984	665	2,242	9,929	7,932	14,825	5,835	16,922
Oct-Dec	10,187	12,898	-2,711	12,876	-3,631	1,782	529	838	7,772	5,061	13,786	6,369	12,478
Jan-Mar	15,118	19,508	-4,390	15,366	-2,138	1,773	545	768	11,678	7,288	13,700	6,604	14,384
Apr-Jun	19,513	25,523	-6,010	15,425	-1,773	1,986	546	1,603	12,723	6,713	14,475	6,123	15,065
Total	63,898	79,006	-15,108	57,839	-10,378	8,525	2,285	5,451	42,102	26,994	56,786	24,931	58,849
2016-2017													
Jul-Sep	18,097	22,518	-4,421	10,074	1,178	2,989	665	2,242	9,840	5,419	15,046	6,025	14,440
Oct-Dec	9,810	12,664	-2,854	8,349	-1,101	1,786	530	838	5,770	2,916	13,956	6,572	10,300
Jan-Mar	15,762	18,704	-2,942	13,364	-4,610	1,777	545	768	7,200	4,258	13,835	6,811	11,282
Apr-Jun	20,945	25,859	-4,914	12,304	-971	1,990	546	1,603	10,400	5,486	14,557	6,307	13,736
Total	64,614	79,745	-15,131	44,091	-5,504	8,542	2,286	5,451	33,210	18,079	57,394	25,715	49,758
2017-2018													
Jul-Sep	17,775	17,032	743	8,440	3,335	2,989	665	2,242	10,363	11,106	15,013	6,214	19,905
Oct-Dec	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jan-Mar	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apr-Jun	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	17,775	17,032	743	8,440	3,335	2,989	665	2,242	10,363	11,106	15,013	6,214	19,905

¹ The sum of quarterly in- and out- interprovincial migrants may not be equal to annual interprovincial in- and out- migrants from 2011 onwards. It is however possible to add quarterly net interprovincial migration estimates to calculate annual estimates.

² Estimates of Non-Permanent Residents (NPRs) represent the number of "...persons who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a temporary resident permit, along with members of their family living with them. Non-Permanent Residents include foreign workers, foreign students, the humanitarian population and other temporary residents. The humanitarian population includes refugee claimants and temporary residents who are allowed to remain in Canada on humanitarian grounds and are not categorized as either foreign workers or foreign students." (Statistics Canada)

³ Includes NPRs

⁴ The sum of the components may not equal the quarterly population change due to differences in the methods used to derive intercensal and postcensal population estimates.